

ABSTRACT

A prosthetic heart valve of the bi-leaflet type is provided that includes an annular structure comprised of biocompatible plastic and a pair of bearing blocks and a pair of leaflets equipped with ear-like projections that are all comprised of pyrolytic carbon. The leaflets associate  
5 pivotably with the bearing blocks, and, with the bearing blocks and the leaflets being initially held in a connected relationship, the annular structure is molded and formed about perimeter portions of the bearing blocks. The valve has a simple structure, yet is durable and reliable.